1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the sector. One of the terms of reference of the High Level Committee was to suggest the changes needed for encouraging investment in public and private sector in exploration and exploitation of minerals. Increase in mining activities will have a multiplier effect on economy, infrastructure and employment. The Committee has submitted its report to the Central Government which is under consideration.

SC guidelines on mining in tribal areas

2021. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some States the contractors who are being awarded contract for mining in tribal areas are violating the guidelines set by Supreme Court in Samatha *Vs.* Andhra Pradesh case;

(b) if so, the steps initiated by Government to implement the guidelines;

(c) the States having a binding R&R policy; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating any comprehensive R&R policy keeping in view that majority of mining area are predominantly tribal populated areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) As per available information, no such instances have been reported. State Governments are the owners of the minerals and grant mining, leases. Prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for grant of mineral concessions only in respect of minerals specified in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. While granting mining leases, State Governments are required to adhere to the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, rules framed thereunder and also other relevant Acts and rules as amended from time to time and judicial pronouncements.

(c) and (d) Some States *viz.* Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have formulated their R&R policy.

Government is formulating a revised rehabilitation policy with the objective of ensuring special care for protecting the rights and affirmative State action for weaker segment of society specially members of SCs and STs.